

**"WE ARE HERE BECAUSE—"**

Toast of Rev. H. D. Smith at the Bryan banquet, given at Hopkinsville, Ky:

Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen: We are here because one of the foremost men of our time has come to visit us and honor us by sitting down with us for an hour at our little feast. We are here to say to him in all sincerity that his visit enriches us as a community and as individuals. This hall will speak to us hereafter whenever we shall assemble in it, of this night and of those fair ideals for the church, for the state and for humanity for which he stands and has stood. Those streets of ours along which he passed this afternoon will hereafter be fragrant with suggestions of him; for we ourselves shall remember his going along them and tell our children of it until it shall be a tradition here, cherished until the latest day of our civic life. And the tabernacle yonder in which he has just spoken will seem to us whenever again from time to time we shall sit in it, to mingle with its treasured echoes of the voices of Moody, Jones and Pentecost, that of the voice of the statesman-preacher of our generation—a voice which has quickened the pulse of a nation and sent thrills of pleasure and of power through the English-speaking world.

We are here to greet our guest in admiration of his body as of tempered steel, his throat as of tireless brass and his tongue of gold which have done so much to make him one of the noblest orators of the modern world.

We are here to speak such small part as delicacy will permit us to speak in his presence, of the gratitude we owe him for unselfish public service. We are here neither to approve nor to disapprove any specific item of a political program; but we

are here as good citizens, we trust, of the great republic to greet one of the best citizens of that republic. We would honor tonight, not the ink of the partisan platform, but the blood of heroic patriotism—not our view—not another's view—but the courageous maintenance according to his abilities and opportunities by each man of his own view of what is best for his country.

We are here to greet a man, not an official.

It is told of one of Mr. Bryan's daughters that she came to the trolley line to board a car to the city. Just before she arrived at the track side a car passed. She ran after it. The conductor from the rear platform signalled frantically to her that another car was coming on just behind her, but in vain. She still ran after the car. So the conductor stopped it and took her aboard. And then he asked her why she had run after his car with another going in the same direction almost at her heels. She answered sweetly, "Oh, that is easy. I was determined to let the folks know that there is at least one member of the Bryan family that can run for something and get it."

And now let us reply to the gentle jibe of the story. The hills met to elect a king, so runs the parable. A foot-hill nominated Pike's peak. There was great applause. But when it subsided, a wise wind-swept, lightning scarred old height, a veritable Ulysses among hills, spoke to them and said, "You cannot make him king—he is king." And then pointing upward with his finger of granite to the sunlight like a great band of gold and the snow like diamonds sown thick in it, he added, "Do you not see, Heaven has crowned him already."

We are here to remind Mr. Bryan, and more especially ourselves, that there are two kinds of human efficiency. One is called power and is due to an accident called inheritance, or to another accident called election. The other is called influence, and is due to character. The one lasts for two years, four years or even for life. The other lasts forever. The one has to do with statutes, expedients, makeshifts; the other has to do with changeless principles and is the builder of the substructions and the vitalizer of the fabrics of nations, societies and civilizations.

We acclaim in our guest of tonight the man of influence whom no office could lift nor any failure of office depress from his present place in the minds and hearts of his countrymen.

We are here tonight to celebrate the titanic wrestler with oppression who for more than twenty years has helped to push back in this land and in the world, the lines with which it restricts human endeavor and to "make the bounds of freedom wider yet."

We are here to exult in the possession by our nation of a political leader of the first rank, who when he goes abroad to see the world is found turning again and again from the capital with its seductive adulation to the mission compound to note, that he may report it to his fellow citizens at home, how the garrison and far flung little line of God do on the frontiers of His Kingdom.

We are here, Mr. Bryan, to exult in the simple Christian man that you are and to honor ourselves by calling you neighbor, friend, brother. And when your battle with the enemies of your country and ours grows bitter and perchance discouraging, may you hear One saying, "As I was with Moses so will I be with thee, thou friend of man, thou servant of Christ."

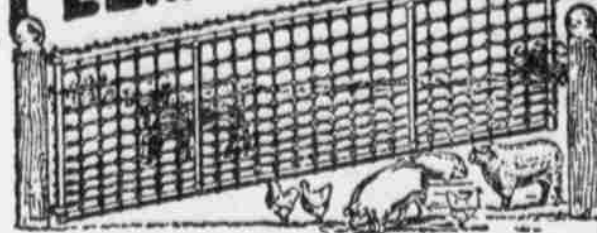
And now, sir, there is but one heart in this company and it calls out to you "hail, and God bless you."

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